

# State of South Dakota

## SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2000

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### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1012

Introduced by: Representatives Wetz, Klaudt, McNenny, and Pummel and Senators Kleven and Bogue

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging support for America's sheep industry.

2 WHEREAS, South Dakota's sheep industry plays an important role in the state's overall  
3 economy and in the support of South Dakota's rural communities and its agricultural economy;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, South Dakota is among the top five lamb and wool producing states,  
6 contributing significantly to the national economy; and

7 WHEREAS, the American sheep industry is in a period of severe distress primarily because  
8 of the flooding of American markets with imported wool and low-priced imported woolen  
9 products, as well as other problems, ranging from predators to weather cycles; and

10 WHEREAS, data from the United States Department of Agriculture indicates less than eight  
11 million head of sheep in the United States at the present time, compared with more than fifty  
12 million during the 1950s; and

13 WHEREAS, lamb prices fell forty percent between 1997 and 1999. Currently, forty percent  
14 of the 1998 wool clip in the United States is unsold and more than fifty percent of the 1999 wool  
15 clip is unsold; and

16 WHEREAS, European countries have rigid quotas on United States lamb and wool that also

1 cause hardship for American producers; and

2 WHEREAS, in July of 1999, while in South Dakota, President Clinton announced  
3 imposition of Section 201 trade restrictions on imported lamb. This trade relief must be  
4 maintained through the year 2002; and

5 WHEREAS, South Dakota Governor William Janklow assisted in providing twenty thousand  
6 dollars to the American Sheep Industry Association to assist them in their Section 201 case with  
7 the United States International Trade Commission, which resulted in the provision of one  
8 hundred million dollars in assistance to the American sheep industry over a three-year period;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, in accordance with United States trade law, all available actions must be taken  
11 to ensure full trade relief for United States sheep producers; and

12 WHEREAS, the South Dakota Sheep Growers and the Western South Dakota Sheep  
13 Growers are united in their efforts to find economic solutions for their industry; and

14 WHEREAS, the wool market depression continues to impose serious hardship on South  
15 Dakota's sheep producers:

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-  
17 fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature  
18 urges further assistance and support for the American sheep industry to overcome the negative  
19 impacts of imported wool and wool products that have flooded markets and reduced the prices  
20 paid to American sheep producers. All appropriate short- and long-term revenue stabilization  
21 measures should be taken to assist the farms and ranches that produce our country's wool and  
22 to promote and preserve a sound sheep industry.